

## **Region 8 2014 RRT Annual Report**

## Executive Summary

As was the case in previous years, Region 8 remained busy throughout the 2014 calendar year. Advances in horizontal drilling and fracking have led to record breaking crude oil production from the Bakken Formation in the Williston Basin. This has in turn led to issues throughout the region related to transportation of this produced oil by rail and pipeline. But oil has not been the only issue RRT member agencies were focused on. 2014 also saw an epidemic, though not specifically in the U.S., of the ebola virus. This resulted in heightened awareness of security and screening of persons who had traveled to Africa and returning to the U.S. Montana has one of the few hospitals in the nation designated to deal with persons affected with the virus. Executive Order 13650 was issued in 2014 by President Obama, aimed at improving public awareness and emergency response to chemical storage facilities. This was a direct result of the deadly fire and explosion at the West Texas ammonium nitrate plant.

Here is a summary of the reports received by the National Response Center (NRC) for the year.

### Report Activities:

Activity dates: 1/1/2014 12:00 AM MST - 12/24/2014 11:38 AM  
MST

STATE	OIL	HAZ	RADIATION	OTHER
CO	188	42	0	52
MT	27	13	0	13
ND	80	21	0	20
SD	13	8	0	8
UT	62	27	0	20
WY	52	19	0	16
TOTAL	422	130	2	129

GRAND TOTAL 696 (Includes 13 unclassified in the Hotline)

## I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

### A. Major/Noteworthy Response Activities

### *Red River Supply Warehouse Fire*

At approximately 9 a.m. on July 22, EPA Region 8 emergency response program received notice from North Dakota Department of Public Health of a major chemical fire involving the Red River Supply



Aftermath of fire showing debris cleanup.

warehouse in Williston, North Dakota (site). The chemical fire started at approximately 1 a.m. that morning and had been burning intensely since. Concerns at the site include public exposure to the smoke plume, contaminated runoff to storm water, and potential impacts to the Little Muddy River and the Missouri River. Due to the nature of the fire, which involved significant quantities of chemicals, the local fire department attending the fire decided to let the fire burn itself out with minimal use of water for fire suppression. The city put out an advisory for residents within one half-mile of the site to either evacuate or shelter in place. The phone duty EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) discussed emergency air monitoring needs with the health department. The 81st Civil Support Team

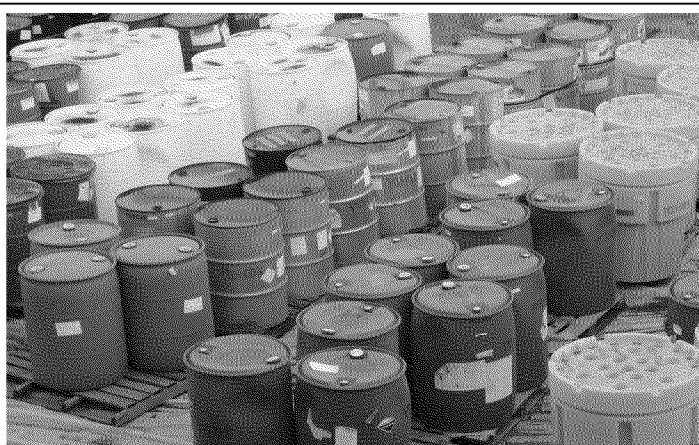
was on route to assist in air monitoring at the time. At approximately 10 a.m. OSC Paul Peronard was deployed to the site to provide additional emergency air monitoring equipment and assistance. As a result of fire suppression operations, a copious amount of contaminated fire water was generated. The majority of this was contained on-site and collected in frac tanks. However, some of the contaminated water breached containment berms and entered the Little Muddy Relief Channel (the "Canal"). The contaminated water dropped the dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the Canal quite severely, resulting in some fish kills. Aerators and pumps were used to raise the DO and to strip contaminants from the water. These efforts were judged to be successful and the systems shut off. Subsequent monitoring showed that DO levels remained satisfactory, and all water controls and treatment systems have been removed.

The burned and damaged buildings and debris have been removed and staged for either recycling or disposal. In addition, the building pads and contaminated soil have also been removed and staged for off-site shipment. The responsible party (RP), in coordination with the State of North Dakota has been identifying approved disposal/reclamation locations and begun off-site shipments. This will be overseen by North Dakota.

### *Parish Chemical Site*

Parish Chemical was founded in 1972 and began operations at the Site in 1978. Various rooms house a plethora of small and medium-sized containers of (reportedly) at least 15,000 various chemicals/compounds in quantities ranging from 5-3,000 grams. The facility-supplied inventory contained no information about the contents of any inside or outside storage vessels.

EPA Region 8 Emergency Response Program initially responded to 1992 fire which resulted in the evacuation of a ½ mile radius zone around the Site as well as temporary closure of the nearby interstate highway. The fire started in an upstairs laboratory/stockroom and quickly burned out the surrounding area. The burned out area, now referred to as the “veranda,” is open to the elements and located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the northeast part of the building. The area is presently used as an open/unenclosed drum and container storage area. A second response action was initiated in 2008 to stabilize Site conditions.



Large containers of chemicals stored outside in on of  
Several staging areas.

Groundwater beneath the Site during spring and early summer periods rises to the point where infiltration occurs in the impoundments and in building interior sump(s). Preliminary analytical results from groundwater samples collected from perimeter monitoring wells show

elevated levels of hazardous substances in shallow groundwater underlying the Site.

In addition to the release of hazardous substance(s) noted above, the improper storage of hazardous materials poses additional threats of release. Hazardous substances are currently being stored at the Site in leaking, deteriorating, and/or mis-labeled tanks, totes and/or drums. Incompatible wastes are currently being stored at unsecured Site locations.

Currently, the Parish facility business is insolvent and has been transferred to a trust for holding until issues are addressed.

This removal action started in the summer of 2013. It is anticipated that packaging and removal of the hazardous chemicals will take approximately four months. Disposal will likely take an additional four weeks



Thousands of smaller containers of chemicals gathering  
dust.

to arrange, with final disposition occurring shortly thereafter. According to EPA OSC David Romero, clean-up and packaging of all chemicals was completed in June of 2014, however, final shipment of around 600 overpack containers is ongoing.

*United Park City Mines agrees to clean up mine waste at Richardson Flat Superfund site*

Historical mining operations undertaken by various parties within the Park City Mining District produced substantial quantities of ore and created significant volumes of mine waste that have contributed to surface water, groundwater, and soil contamination in the Silver Creek watershed. Contaminants of concern include lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium. United Park City Mines (UPCM) has entered into an agreement with multiple federal and state agencies to assess, cleanup, and restore more than 2,700 acres that are contaminated with historic mining waste within the Richardson Flat Superfund site near Park City, Utah.

EPA has been involved with investigation and cleanup activities at the Richardson Flat site since 1988. In 2007, UPCM entered into a consent decree to address mine waste at the Richardson Flat tailings impoundment. With much of this work completed, UPCM is now focusing attention on approximately 1,875 acres along lower sections of Silver Creek north and east of Highway 40 and approximately 836 acres east of Park City along Silver Creek and its floodplain. These properties include land managed by BLM and former Union Pacific Railway right-of-way that is managed by the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation as a recreational trail.

UPCM's engineering and cost evaluation will characterize conditions in lower Silver Creek and identify alternatives for cleanup actions to prevent, mitigate, and remedy contamination concerns. Upon completion of these analyses, and after consideration of public comment, EPA will issue an Action Memorandum that will document specific cleanup activity to be taken.

In a unique partnership between UPCM, EPA, and federal and state partners, impacts to natural resources, and strategies to restore them will be assessed in coordination with clean-up work. This streamlined process will save time and money during the assessment phase and will result in more resources being available to restore natural resources that have been impacted by mining activities in the watershed.

While cleanup requirements and costs will be determined by UPCM's assessment work, response actions to improve environmental quality will likely include extensive excavation and removal of contaminated soils, tailings, and sediments in and along Silver Creek. This cleanup activity will be coordinated with the re-vegetation of impacted areas with native species and the restoration of wetlands and the stream channel.

"The BLM has been working for many years to identify the problems resulting in mining-related contamination on the public lands we manage in the Park City area," said Kevin Oliver, BLM's West Desert district manager. "We are looking forward to working with UPCM, FWS, State of Utah and EPA to see this site cleaned up and restored in order to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the watershed."

This agreement builds upon progress in other parts of the Richardson Flat site, including UPCM's cleanup of the Richardson Flat tailings impoundment and Park City Municipal Corporation's recent

commitment to reduce discharges of metals contaminated water from the Prospector Drain. These activities will result in cleanup and restoration along six miles of the Silver Creek drainage.

For more information on the Richardson Flat Superfund site, visit:  
<http://www2.epa.gov/region8/richardson-flat-tailings>

*EPA PREP, Spectra Energy conducted an oil spill drill in Casper, Wyoming on May 14*

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Spectra Energy, and more than two dozen federal, state, county, city and private organizations participated in an emergency response exercise at locations along Casper Creek and the North Platte River in Casper, Wyoming, on Wednesday, May 14. The full-scale exercise was conducted by EPA's National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) and was designed to comply with requirements of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 for spill-response readiness.

Over a six-hour period beginning at 8 a.m., exercise elements included operations required to assess the simulated spill situation, organize the response, develop incident objectives, and manage the initial discharge. The mock response incorporated the simulated failure of an oil distribution and storage facility and included three designated control points on the North Platte River, which is downstream from the initial discharge.

Each control point was clearly marked and staffed by an exercise controller and a site safety officer who oversaw the procedures developed for participants involved in containment and recovery operations. On-site observers and signage reassured the public that the exercise is a simulation and not a "real-world" event.



For our exercise, Control Point #3 is where Evansville Fire Dept. and Sinclair Refinery use a boat to string boom across the North Platte River to collect the simulated oil spill.

The exercise is designed to address goals specific to emergency response and incident management of a regional event, including:

- Enhance response operations for a major oil release/discharge;
- Validate plans and systems needed to ensure the highest level of preparedness;
- Reinforce public/private partnerships to develop a viable local response capability;
- Meet PREP requirements and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program guidelines for exercise conduct.

This environmental response exercise allowed participants to practice and fine tune response capabilities in a setting that approximates real circumstances. Such training is necessary to ensure that EPA, other federal and local authorities, and private companies in the area are capable of providing a rapid and effective response in the event of a real incident.

*EPA requires Chevron Pipe Line to provide funding for oil spill response*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reached a settlement with Chevron Pipe Line Company resolving Clean Water Act violations associated with two oil spills at the company's facilities in Utah. As part of the settlement, the Bellaire, Texas-based company will pay a civil penalty of \$875,000. The penalty will be deposited into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, a fund used by federal agencies to respond to oil spills.

This agreement is associated with two spills from pipelines owned by Chevron Pipe Line. On June 11, 2010, a discharge of approximately 800 barrels of oil from the company's Rangely to Salt Lake Crude System No. 2 pipeline led to the Red Butte Creek Spill in Salt Lake City, Utah. The oil entered Red Butte Creek and flowed downstream to Liberty Lake, a centerpiece of Liberty Park in downtown Salt Lake City. The lake was closed for nearly a year while cleanup and restoration activities took place.

On March 18, 2013, a discharge of approximately 499 barrels of diesel fuel from the company's Northwest Products System No. 1 Oil Line in Box Elder County impacted wetlands adjacent to Willard Bay, a reservoir connected to the Great Salt Lake. Soil, surface water, and groundwater contamination at the spill site required extensive containment and clean-up measures. The spill also affected wildlife and caused the temporary closure of Willard Bay State Park. Chevron Pipe Line no longer owns the Northwest Products System.

The settlement follows several recent penalties and compliance actions associated with the Red Butte Creek spill, including agreements between Chevron Pipe Line and the State of Utah, Salt Lake City, and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. In December 2013, the company reached a settlement with the State of Utah which includes penalties and funds for specific damages and restoration and mitigation activities associated with the Willard Bay spill.

The agreement is subject to a 30-day public comment period which will begin on the date the notice of the proposed settlement is published in the Federal Register. A copy of the agreement will be posted at: [http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/Consent\\_Decrees.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html)

More information on the Red Butte Creek spill: <http://www.deq.utah.gov/locations/redbutte/>

More information on the Willard Bay spill: <http://www.deq.utah.gov/envrpt/Response/s31.htm>

### *RCP Rewrite Completed*

The Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) rewrite was finished in December after many months of review and modification. The final version was sent out to the RRT members for their approval and comment, and pending upper management approval, will be available for reference. Thanks to the many members who offered assistance on this massive project, and especially Seagull contractors Ryan Lunt and Jeff Pritchard for their tireless efforts.

## **B. RRT Meetings**

Spring 2014 – April 29-30, held at the Region 8 EPA Headquarters building at 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, Colorado

Topics of discussion included:

- Silica Exposures in Oil and Gas Workers in Hydraulic Fracturing Sites
- OSRO Development in Region 8
- GSA Capabilities
- Executive Order 13650 – Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security
- Hazmat/Oil Transloading via Rail
- Sub Area Contingency plans update – Missouri, Yellowstone, and Green Rivers
- NCP Oil Spill Response

Fall 2014 – October 15-16, 2014, held at the U.S. Forest Service building at 740 Simms Street, Golden, Colorado

Presentations included:

- Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)
- Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA/DOT) – Pipeline Safety
- RCP Revision
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS/USDA)
- Tier 2 Reports and the Freedom of Information Act
- Sub Area Contingency plans update
- Member access to RRT related info (epaosc.org, webeoc, T.E.R.A. viewer, etc.)

Region 8 RCP Revision Team



As stated previously, the revised Region 8 RCP has been finished. A working committee headed by EPA's Gina Cristiano, assisted by Bernadette Rose and Mark Wullstein, met with RRT members in person and via teleconference, over the past year, to revise, update, and condense the existing RCP. It was decided to use Region 7's RCP for a guide. After final review, the revised RCP will be available for RRT member use.

### **C. Committee and Working Group Updates**

EPA OSCs continue to work on the Sub Area Contingency Plans and the partner members in each area to develop as comprehensive a guide for response as possible. To be included in each area plan is a location list of response equipment available and contractors certified for cleanup and disposal.

## **II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

### **A. Training**

Training in Region 8 included:

- 40 hour Hazwoper classes for the Denver area Tri-County, the Crow Nation in Montana, Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Durango region, Commerce City, and the Southern Ute Tribe
- 8 hour Hazwoper refresher classes for the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, Boulder County, Peterson AFB, Tri-County, and the University of Colorado
- Petroleum Spill Response Training in Colorado Springs
- Oil Spill Response training for PREP – Casper
- Oil Spill Response training - Salt Lake City, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Rapid City, Ellsworth AFB, and Denver

### **B. Exercises**

Exercises and/or Workshops:

- RSC Workshop – WERT, Denver
- Chemical Stockpile Emergency Planning Program (CSEPP) National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF), Pueblo, CO
- Region 8 TEPW/IP, Denver
- National Exercise Program Capstone Exercise 2014, Nationwide
- Nuclear Weapons Accident Incident (NUWAIX), Grand Junction, CO
- PREP – Final Planning Conference (FPC)
- RRT Workshop, Denver
- Adams County, CO Flood TTX
- NUWAIX After Accident Conference, Grand Junction, CO
- PREP Full Scale Exercise, Casper, WY
- PREP Recovery TTX, Casper, WY

- CSEPP Recovery Management: Command and Control Workshop, Pueblo, CO
- PREP Oil Exercise, Casper, WY
- Wyoming WARN Training and TTX, Jackson, WY
- Carcass Management Logistics, Kansas City, MO
- FBI Facility Seminar/Demonstration, Denver
- RRT Workshop/Seminar, Denver
- MHA Nation Exercise for Water Sector, New Town, ND
- Enbridge FSE 2015 – Initial Planning Conference, Minot, ND
- North Dakota Hazmat Conference, Bismarck, ND
- Vigilant Guard, Salt Lake City
- Environmental Monitoring and Sampling Workshop, Pueblo, CO
- Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality – FE, Salt Lake City

**C. Major Best Practices and Lessons Learned From Responses, Trainings, Exercises/Workshops, and Other RRT Activities**

**TOPIC TITLE: PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR OIL SPILLS VIA PRESS RELEASES**

**BEST PRACTICE DESCRIPTION:**

In 2013 an oil spill from a pipeline near Tioga, North Dakota resulted in over 20,000 barrels of oil contaminating a farm. The responsible party notified appropriate emergency response personnel immediately, but even after the notification, it took almost two weeks before the amount of released crude oil was determined. The public never was alerted until an AP reporter was doing follow up on the story. Now, the North Dakota Health Department puts out press releases for every significant spill. Clean-up operations continue in 2014, over a year since the initial spill.

Image of ongoing soil removal and remediation on farm contaminated by oil spill.



<b>Sponsor:</b> <i>North Dakota Dept. of Emergency Services</i>	<b>Phone:</b> 800-773-3259
<b>POC:</b> <i>Ray DeBoer, NDDDES Haz-Chem Coordinator</i>	<b>E-mail:</b> <i>rdeboer@nd.gov</i>
<b>Web link:</b> <i>www.nd.gov/des</i>	

**TOPIC TITLE:** *ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS ABATEMENT AND DISPOSAL - CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE RESIDENTIAL AND SCHOOL ASBESTOS SITE*

**Best Practice Description:**

This removal action involves the removal and proper disposal of asbestos containing material (ACM) and/or other household hazardous waste on 20 properties located on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST) reservation located in Dewey and Ziebach Counties, South Dakota.

Conditions existing at the site present a threat to public health and the environment. Known contaminants of concern at the site are mainly asbestos and potentially other household hazardous wastes, such as mercury-containing electrical components. These are hazardous substances as defined by Section 101 (14) of CERCLA. Monday, October 21, 2014 EPA OSC, START, and ERRS mobilized to CRST Reservation to conduct abatement and disposal. The removal action is complete, and crews mobilized from the site on November 5, 2014.



Interior of one of the buildings being demolished

**Sponsor:** *Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources*

**Phone:** 605-964-6558

**POC:** *Robert Smith, Brownfields Coordinator, CRST DENR*  
*Tien Nguyen, USEPA Region 8 OSC, 303-312-6820*

**E-mail:** *nguyen.tien@epa.gov*

**Web link:**  
[www.epaosc.org/CRSTResSchAsbestos](http://www.epaosc.org/CRSTResSchAsbestos)

### III. PERSONNEL/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

- Lt. Angelique Geyer replaced Lt. Bryan Naranjo as Operations Officer for the USCG Pacific Strike Team
- Lt. Gregory Schweitzer replaced John Lomnický as Alternate Representative for the Dept. of Commerce
- Scott F. Roscoe was removed as APHIS representative and replaced by Bethany O'Brien
- John Dean replaces Steve Morealle for the DOE representative
- Capt. Brian Dailey replaced Capt. David Edwards as the Alternate Co-Chair for the RRT
- Region 8 has asked private industry to participate in the meetings

#### **IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION**

There are no issues or operational considerations requiring NRT attention at this time.



